

## No. 8.

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**THE EDMONTON BULLETIN**  
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OLIVER & DENLOP,  
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EDMONTON BULLETIN, DEC. 23, 1882.

#### HOME STEADS AND PRE-EMPTIONS.

Now that the surveys in this vicinity have been completed and the question of the ownership of the land is to be decided in the near future, it is well for all interested to be on the alert to see that they get their rights. Considering the circumstances of the case—the high value of the land and the fact of the greater part of it being handed over to speculative companies—the settlers have every reason to be on their guard, and to assert their rights in season and out of season. Had the question of ownership come up three or four years ago there would have been little or no cause for alarm as at that time, although nominally a settler's rights were not recognized, actually they were, and the spirit of land speculation had not obtained such an ascendancy over the government as it has at present. At that time most of those who, to-day possess North-Western land kings would have considered twenty-five cents an acre an exorbitant price for land which they have since paid one, two, five or ten dollars an acre for. Then the problem of the agricultural ability of the North West was being solved by the people settled there. Now that problem has been satisfactorily solved and every string is being pulled, every crook and turn is being made to prevent the settler from reaping the benefit that is his right. His regulation after regulation is issued each more onerous than the last, with the object of embarrassing him as much as possible, and he is not informed until the last moment what is actually to be done with him, but the idea is kept continually before his eyes that whatever he receives is a concession from the rulers for which he should be eternally grateful—not something which is his by right.

The fact that the surveyors last week refused to take declarations in regard to pre-emption at the same time as the declarations as to homesteads were taken, shows pretty clearly how the settlers are likely to go. If a man is entitled to a pre-emption, as the surveyors admitted he was, what good reason can there be for not taking his entry for it at once? If the fact of the declaration as to his homestead being taken protects him as to that, of course if he does not take he would have no protection; so if no declaration is taken in regard to the pre-emption, of course he has no protection from any other man taking it whenever he sees fit. And it is natural to suppose that when the survey has been approved in Ottawa and the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company enters in to claim its pound of flesh that these pre-emption men having been overlooked by any one, will pass under their control and if the homestead desires to acquire a pre-emption he will have to pay instead of one dollar an acre as was the law when he took his homestead, two, four or perhaps ten dollars an acre. Of course it is satisfactory as far as it goes to see that there is no intention of depriving any one of his homestead, although there are rumors afloat that all old section will have to pay for them, but people did not come here five or ten years ago and take up land when pre-emption were allowed, and wait so long expecting all the time to get pre-emption, to be put off with only a homestead. If there is any profit to be made out of the rise in the value of the land surely these are the men who should have it, but when they go before the surveyor to make their declaration they are calmly told their entry will not be taken, that is that they will not be protected in their pre-emption rights.

The whole matter of the taking of these declarations has everything but a reassuring look for the settler. It is generally supposed to be a surveyor's duty in running his lines to

take note of all improvements he may find and to take declarations as to the ownership of these improvements at the time if such are offered to him. But when the lines were being run and the settlers offered to take their declarations, they were told that to do so, the surveyors saying that they did not desire to lose any time just then. When the declarations were to be taken so little publicity was given that many of those interested did not know anything about what was going on until after one of the surveyors had a race for Winnipeg and the other had gone about his other work. We are not yet given any information as to whether it was necessary to make these declarations or not. Not a word has been said to give the settlers the opportunity to secure themselves by complying with the regulations whatever they may be. It is quite possible that those who made no declaration as to their homesteads have given themselves away in regard to their pre-emption, while those who made no declarations will get both; and it may be possible on the other hand that those who made no declaration will get nothing. Another somewhat peculiar thing was that although a man had improved his land he pre-emption no notice was taken of these improvements if it could be avoided. Only where it was made up upon was the declaration taken, the surveyor saying that it would have no effect. It seems as though these men were not sent as surveyors on by but as land agents also, and instead of being their duty to give the facts as to the ownership of improvements as they found them, it is to make it appear that the settlers have no claim any more than one hundred and sixty acres each, and that they are willing to take anything more that they can get from any person, company or government at any price that may be offered them, or to say the least, it is to without.

The action of the people in allowing their affidavits to go down to Ottawa or to escape they did, taking no account of the pre-emption was rather or nearly all of them claim is such to be regretted. No doubt action will be taken on these affidavits in accordance with what they show on their face and we may shortly expect the information either that we can secure our pre-emption at two dollars an acre each, or that they have all together passed into the hands of other parties. Even if this action is not taken at once by the government these lands on even sections at least will be open to be taken by actual settlers, or in other words jumped from the men who have claimed them all along. In either case there is trouble ahead. Either the settlers will have to give up what they have always considered their rights or they will have to maintain them by forcible means. In order to do the latter united action will be necessary, and it is a pity that it should not have been taken right from the start and either all the affidavits gone down together or none gone at all. In making these affidavits the settlers have placed a strong point in the hands of the government and their speculative friends against themselves, and the sooner they retrieve their error the better. The government will not know by these affidavits that they claim pre-emption. Let every man in the settlement who has a claim on his affidavit as to the time at which he took it up, the amount of improvements that he has made, and the amount of land that he claims as a homestead and pre-emption, state the circumstances of the case in which we find ourselves and the danger we are in and ask that our rights be allowed us. Let this be sent down to the Department at Ottawa, and if no notice is taken of it, or if our fears are shown to have cause, let it be laid before Parliament at its coming session in the form of a petition. By thus giving publicity to the matter we may attract influential sympathy sufficient to make it impossible for the intended injury to be carried out. But if nothing is done, if we only wait, we will simply be waiting for our pre-emption taken from us and perhaps the homesteads of those on odd sections will go the same way.

It would be folly to assert that there is no danger of the pre-emption being lost, for we read in the papers that in the townships around Regina every pre-emption has been jumped, and what has happened at Regina we may expect to happen here, especially if Edmon-

ton is made a capital. To prevent this at least for a time, it would be well for every man to improve on his pre-emption without delay, and then unless the government steps in and actually takes it from him no other power can. Above all things possession should be held until the last extremity. Let no amount of smooth phrases or tall talk about government regulations hamboozle any one into giving up a single foot that is his by right. This is a case in which the settlers must protect themselves, for if they do not they can depend upon it, that neither the land sharks nor the government will protect them.

The old style of hanging murderers seems to be played out in Canada, and especially in Winnipeg. Only a year or two ago a man named Bell was shot in the back from across the street by a man with whom he had some words a few minutes before. The murderer was sentenced to ten years penal servitude, but made his escape before he had been in penitentiary ten months. Late a man named Garvin who shot a tipsy man dead in a bar-room because the latter had slapped his face, has been sentenced to fourteen years penal servitude. Juries in these days apparently desire to deal gently with the erring, but it is questionable whether the policy is a good one. There is an old book now almost obsolete which says in one place "Thou shalt not kill," and in another "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed." It has generally been found that the more closely the rules laid down in this book have been adhered to by any community, the better it was for that community, and it is scarcely probable that the rule above mentioned is any exception.

At the time of the last Dominion election it became necessary for the government to conciliate the Irish Catholics of Ontario by appointing two representative men of that faith and nationality to positions in the senate. Since then Archbishop Lynch of Toronto, has taken a stand on certain questions which apparently does not suit these gentlemen, for they have published a letter in the Mail newspaper defining what they consider H. O'Grady's duties and beseeching him to remember the difference between religion and politics. This from men who owe their political positions to their religious faith is unpeppably rich.

We are glad to be able to relieve the Indian Agent here from any suspicion of being personally at fault in the matter of the burial of the Indian woman spoken of in our issue before last. We are informed that on other occasions he has caused such burials to be made, and on sending the necessary vouchers to Ottawa for payment they were disallowed, and he was obliged to foot the bill out of his own pocket. This explanation shifts the odium from the shoulders of the agent here to those of the head of the department.

#### REAL ESTATE OFFICE.

STUART D. MULKINS,

Sole agent in Edmonton for the sale of lots on the

ROBERTSON & MCGINN PROPERTY, Lot No. 12, Edmonton;

MACDONALD & MCLEOD PROPERTY, Lot No. 14, Edmonton;

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GENERAL MERCHANTS, FORT SASKATCHEWAN.

Will keep constantly on hand a first-class assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries and Hardware, especially selected or the trade there which will be sold at the lowest prices for cash.

Remember the place—Haly's old store, east of the fort.

NORRIS & CAREY,

#### GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Have now on hand and will keep in stock a complete assortment of

#### DRY GOODS,

#### GROCERIES

#### BOOTS AND SHOES

#### 427 HARDWARE TO ARRIVE SHORTLY

Having traded in this country for many years, the firm feel confident that they can supply the goods the people want, and will do so at the

#### LOWEST LIVING PROFIT.

HORSES AND CATTLE bought, sold and exchanged.

New store on St. Albert road, next building to the H. B. Co's fort.

NORRIS & CAREY.

#### BROWN & CURRY,

Have now on route and to arrive shortly a large outfit of goods comprising

#### STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS

#### GENTS' FURNISHINGS,

#### SMALL WARES,

all personally selected in the best houses of Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere, and of the best quality obtainable.

Also to arrive by freighters from the end of the track a full stock of

#### GROCERIES,

#### HARDWARE,

#### CROCKERY,

#### PATENT MEDICINES

#### BOOTS AND SHOES.

BROWN & CURRY.

R. S. MCGINNIS, late H.R.C. and agent, stated for the information of the meetings

H. Bleecker moved a vote of thanks to the chairman after which the meeting adjourned.

calling to our minds the birth of our Saviour. It is, indeed, the Mass of Christ, as the word Christmas indicates. The praises of Christ of God made man will be sung as usual, in French, English and Cree. The choir will be conducted by Rev. Father Ventighien, and in the gallery by Rev. Brother Boon, the Sisters

**EDMONTON HOTEL**, the pioneer house of entertainment west of Portage la Prairie. An extensive addition has been made to this establishment which now offers superior accommodation to my old patrons and the travelling public. A first-class billiard room. Good stabling attached. **DONALD ROSS**

entertainment west of Portage is Prairie. An extensive addition has been made to this establishment which now offers superior accommodation to my old patrons and the travelling public. A first-class billiard room. Good stabling attached. DONALD ROSS Proprietor.

French, English and other languages were conducted by Rev. Father Ventighen, and in the gallery by Rev. Brother Boon, the Sisters of Charity and the orphans.

entertainment west of Portage is Prairie. An extensive addition has been made to this establishment which now offers superior accommodation to my old patrons and the travelling public. A first-class billiard room. Good stabling attached. DONALD ROSS Proprietor.



Full information in regard to these lands will be given at the offices of the Company in Winnipeg and Montreal.

**C. J. BRYDGES,**  
Land Commissioner.